

STATUS OF ALL CLAIMS

1. (original): A cyclone assembly comprising a cyclone chamber, an inner cyclone liner adapted to be received within the cyclone chamber, and displacement means for displacing the inner cyclone liner relative to the cyclone chamber between an operative position and an inoperative position.
2. (original): A cyclone assembly as claimed in claim 1 in which the cyclone chamber comprises an outer cyclone liner.
3. (original): A cyclone assembly as claimed in claim 2 in which the inner cyclone liner is adapted to be displaced along a longitudinal axis of the outer cyclone liner between the operative position and inoperative position.
4. (original): A cyclone assembly as claimed in claim 3 in which a seal is provided at a lower end of the inner cyclone liner, which seals between the inner and outer cyclone liners when the inner cyclone liner is in the operative position.
5. (currently amended): A cyclone assembly as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 in which the inner cyclone liner has an inlet let into its periphery.
6. (currently amended): A cyclone assembly as claimed in ~~any one of claims claim 2 to 5~~ in which the outer cyclone liner has an inlet let into its periphery.
7. (currently amended): A cyclone assembly as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 in which the inner cyclone liner has an overflow outlet for fluids at an upper end and a discharge outlet for solids at its lower end.
8. (currently amended): A cyclone assembly as claimed in ~~any one of claims claim 2 to 7~~ in which the outer cyclone liner has an overflow outlet for fluids at an upper end and a discharge outlet for solids at a lower end.

9. (original): A cyclone assembly as claimed in claim 8 in which the inner cyclone liner is able to pass through the overflow outlet of the outer cyclone liner.

10. (currently amended): A cyclone separator including a cyclone assembly as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 9~~ in which the cyclone assembly is contained within a housing.

11. (original): A cyclone separator as claimed in claim 10 in which the housing has an inflow chamber, an overflow chamber and a discharge chamber.

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended): A cyclone separator as claimed in claim 11 ~~or claim 12~~ in which the cyclone chamber is substantially contained in the inflow chamber.

14. (currently amended): A cyclone separator as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 11 ~~to 13~~ in which the inner cyclone liner can be positioned concentrically within the cyclone chamber in the operative position, or displaced axially to the inoperative position within the overflow chamber.

15. (currently amended): A cyclone separator as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 10 ~~to 14~~ in which actuation of the displacement means is automatic, and is triggered when a predetermined pressure differential is detected between an inflow and outflow of the separator.

16. (currently amended): A cyclone separator as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 10 ~~to 15~~ in which the displacement means is a threaded spindle.

17. (currently amended): A cyclone separator as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 11 ~~to 14~~ in which the displacement means is a threaded spindle and a hand wheel is provided for actuation of the threaded spindle by rotation.

18. (currently amended): A cyclone separator as claimed in ~~any one of claims claim 10 to 16~~ in which the displacement means is powered ~~either~~ by a device selected from the group consisting of a hydraulic or pneumatic actuator, an electric actuator, and springs.

19-20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended): A cyclone separator as claimed in claim ~~45~~ 10 in which the displacement means is powered by the pressure differential between the inflow and outflow of the separator.

22. (currently amended): A cyclone separator as claimed in ~~any one of claims claim 11 to 24~~ in which a fluidising unit is connected to the discharge chamber.

23. (currently amended): A cyclone separator as claimed in ~~any one of claims 9 to 22~~ claim 10 in which a heating device is provided on the separator, the heating device selected from the group consisting of a heated jacket is provided around the separator and heat tracing.

24-28. (canceled)

29. (currently amended): A cyclone separator as claimed in claim ~~27 or claim 28~~ 10 in which the cyclone separator is positioned on ~~the~~ and adapted to be operated on a seabed and arranged to remove solids from a fluid flow prior to a process or separation system.

30-33. (canceled)

34. (currently amended): A method of increasing the flow capacity of a cyclone separator during use, comprising ~~the step of~~ withdrawing an inner cyclone liner from an operative position within a cyclone chamber to an inoperative position axially spaced from the cyclone chamber.

35. (original): A method as claimed in claim 34 in which the pressure between an inlet and an outlet of the cyclone separator reduces as the flow capacity increases.

36. (currently amended): A method of reducing the flow capacity of a cyclone separator during use, comprising ~~the step of~~ inserting an inner cyclone liner to an operative position within an outer cyclone liner from an inoperative position axially spaced from the outer cyclone liner, thereby making the inner cyclone liner, which has a smaller internal diameter than the outer cyclone liner, the operative liner of the cyclone separator.

37. (original): A method as claimed in claim 36 in which the pressure between an inlet and an outlet of the cyclone separator increases as the flow capacity reduces.